



Civil War Records

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I. Explain the value of researching Civil War ancestors.

- A. Genealogical information possible in military records: physical description, age, birthplace or residence, death, (and in pension applications) marriage and wife's maiden name.
- B. Use Civil War unit histories to write bio sketches. Contribute those sketches to Memories.
- C. Thoroughness (part of the *Genealogical Proof Standard*) on an ancestor's family group.
 - 1. Goal: Document (source footnote) EVERY source that mentions a Civil War ancestor.
 - 2. https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Adding_a_Custom_Event_to_a_PAF_Family_Group_Record
 - 3. Add these sources to document your ancestor on FamilySearch Tree

II. Explain how to identify a Civil War ancestor's unit.

- A. Identifying a serviceman's unit (regiment or vessel) is essential to finding military records.
- B. Use *Civil War Soldiers and Sailors* at www.nps.gov/civilwar/soldiers-and-sailors-database.htm
- C. Sometimes county histories show unit(s) that recruited young men. Find county histories in the FamilySearch Catalog *Place Search* under county name with the topic **History**

III. Explain how to find a Civil War ancestor's compiled service record.

- A. *Service records* show where a soldier/sailor was every two months when they got paid.
- B. Wiki tells how to use them at **Confederate Service Records**, and **Union Service Records**
- C. National Archives explains them at www.archives.gov/research/military/civil-war/resources.html
- D. fold3 at http://www.fold3.com/category_19/
- E. You can e-mail request paper copies from the National Archives.
<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/pre-ww-1-records.html>

IV. Explain how to find a Civil War ancestor's pension record.

- A. *Pension records* are applications from disabled or old soldiers, their widows or orphans.
- B. Confederate pensions, if any, were paid by the state (NOT federal) governments.
- C. Wiki tells how to use them at **Confederate Pension Records**, & **Union Pension Records**
- D. National Archives explains them at www.archives.gov/research/military/civil-war/resources.html
- E.
 - 1. fold3 Pension Index at http://www.fold3.com/title_57/civil_war_and_later_veterans_pension/
 - 2. fold3 Widows Pensions at http://www.fold3.com/title_24/civil_war_widows_pensions/
 - 3. Union pensions at either FamilySearch or at Ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=4654
 - 4. Always view the original packet in Washington D.C. whenever possible!
- F. You can e-mail request paper copies from the National Archives (same as above).

V. Explain how to find unit histories for a Civil War ancestor's unit.

- A. *Unit histories* tell in what places the unit served and in which battles they fought.
- B. *Civil War Soldiers and Sailors* histories (click unit name) are from F H. Dyer, *Compendium*.
- C. Google a unit's history.

- D. *Family History Library Catalog* familysearch.org/catalog-search and/or *WorldCat* worldcat.org/ can help find many unit histories.

VI. List other kinds of Civil War related and veterans' records.

- A. 1890 Census Union Veterans Schedules (States: ½ Kentucky to Wyoming only)
search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=8667
- B. Old Soldiers' Homes
familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/US_Military_Old_Soldiers_Home_Records
- C. Confederate Pension Indexes are scattered on several state sites, for example,
ark-ives.com/documenting/confed_pensions.aspx or floridamemory.com/collections/pensionfiles/
- D. Veteran organizations like Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) or United Conf. Vets (UCV)
 - 1. Use search engines like Google to find society names and acronyms looking for records
 - 2. Use the Catalog *Keyword Search*, for example "Grand Army of the Republic Kansas"
 - 3. Periodical Source Index <http://search.findmypast.com/search/periodical-source-index>
Place search, keyword="Grand Army of the Republic" with or without state/county names
- E. Cemetery records
 - 1. Based on the clues on the family group, find or guess where the ancestor was buried
 - 2. Use Catalog *Place Search* to find (a) the town, and (b) county cemetery records at FHL
 - 3. Internet searches like findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fq.cgi and www.interment.net/
 - 4. Wiki at wiki.familysearch.org/en/Union_Cemetery_Records and also wiki.familysearch.org/en/United_States_Civil_War_1861_to_1865#Confederate_Cemetery_Records
- F. Freedmen's Bureau (Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands)
freedmensbureau.com/
- G. Freedman's Savings and Trust Company
 - 1. Heritage Quest at persi.heritagequestonline.com/hqoweb/library/do/freedmans
 - 2. Ancestry at search.ancestry.com/search/DB.aspx?dbid=8755
- H. Southern Claims Commission at familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Southern_Claims_Commission

VII. Describe major Civil War history. Also describe recruiting, draft, camp life, battle conditions, POWs, casualties, life after the war, modern battlefields, reenactments

- A. Anaconda Plan – Blockade
- B. Lee's Invasions of the North
- C. Grant's Vicksburg Campaign
- D. Sherman's March to the Sea
- E. Grant wears Lee down to surrender
- F. Recruiting and the draft
- G. Camp life, battle conditions, POWs, and casualties
- H. Aftermath: Reconstruction, Veterans Organizations, and Old Soldiers Homes
- J. African Americans during the Civil War and Reconstruction
- K. Modern battlefields and reenactments

Homework:

- A. Obtain a copy of a Civil War ancestor's service record, and if appropriate his pension record.
- B. Visit battlefields and reenactments to learn more about your ancestor's way of life.
- C. Source document an ancestor's Civil War records (during and after) in FamilySearch Tree.
- D. Write a biographical sketch of his Civil War service and donate it to FamilySearch Memories.